

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 EUR-25 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 RSR-01 /118 W

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R 171514 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8857

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1776

DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI JEWS

REF: GENEVA 1696

1. MISOFF MET UNHCR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN APRIL 16 TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF IRAQI JEWS AND RECEIVE REPORT ON HCR' S RECENT VISIT BAGHDAD.
2. HCR' S REPORT TO MISOFF WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT REFLECTED REFTEL EXCEPT THAT HE ELABORATED SOMEWHAT ON MATTER OF PERMISSION FOR MEMBERS JEWISH COMMUNITY TO LEAVE IRAQ, A SUBJECT WHICH HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH IRAQI MINISTER INTERIOR. HCR EXPLAINED THAT HE SPOKE TO MINISTER IN THIS REGARD IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY AND AS A FRIEND. SAID HE ENDEAVORED CONVINCE MINISTER THAT IN LIGHT CONCERN OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OVER JEWISH MINORITY GROUP IRAQ AND FACT THAT HIGH MAJORITY OF IRAQI JEWS QUITTING IRAQ CHOOSE IMMIGRATION TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ISRAEL, PRINCIPALLY USA, IRAQ HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AND POSSIBLY GOODWILL TO GAIN BY PERMITTING DEPARTURES.

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4. HCR GAINED IMPRESSION THAT MINISTER WAS REASONABLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS ARGUMENTS, AND AT END OF CONVERSATION MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT VIS- A- VIS PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT A LIBERAL POLICY WITH RESPECT EMIGRATION OF IRAQI JEWS. HOWEVER, MINISTER INDICATED UNLIKELIHOOD IMPLEMENTATION SUCH LIBERAL POLICY IF FREE PRESS CONTINUES ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN RESPECT ALLEGED MISSING IRAQI JEWS. MINISTER EXPLAINED TO HCR IRAQ' S INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH RADICAL GROUPS AND HAWKS WHO VIOLENTLY OPPOSED TO ANY LENIENT TREATMENT OF IRAQI JEWS ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT ANTI- ZIONIST PROPAGANDA.

5. HCR REITERATED OPINION THAT 12 ARE LOST, BUT WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT PROVIDING PRESS DOES NOT BELABOR THE 12 IN QUESTION, MEMBERS IRAQI JEWISH COMMUNITY WISHING EMIGRATE WILL BE PERMITTED TO DO SO OVER COMING SUMMER MONTHS. RIMESTAD

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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